

CHAPTER 2.2.3.

INFECTION WITH *HAPLOSPORIDIUM NELSONI*

Article 2.2.3.1.

For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, infection with *Haplosporidium nelsoni* means *infection* only with *Haplosporidium nelsoni*.

Methods for surveillance, diagnosis and confirmatory identification are provided in the *Aquatic Manual* (under study).

Article 2.2.3.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this Chapter apply to: Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) and Eastern oyster (*C. virginica*). These recommendations also apply to any other *susceptible species* referred to in the *Aquatic Manual* when traded internationally.

Article 2.2.3.3.

Commodities

1. When authorising the importation or transit of the following *commodities*, the *Competent Authorities* should not require any *Haplosporidium nelsoni* related conditions, regardless of the *Haplosporidium nelsoni* status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*:
 - a) For the species referred to in Article 2.2.3.2. for any purpose:
 - i) commercially sterile canned or cooked products;
 - ii) ~~gametes, eggs and~~ larvae.
 - b) The following *commodities* destined for human consumption from the species referred to in Article 2.2.3.2. which have been prepared in such a way as to minimise the likelihood of alternative uses:
 - i) chemically preserved products (e.g. smoked, salted, pickled, marinated, ~~etc.~~);
 - ii) products (e.g. ready prepared meals) that have been heat treated in a manner to ensure the inactivation of the parasite;
 - iii) off the shell (chilled or frozen) packaged for direct retail trade;
 - iv) half-shell (chilled).
 - c) All *commodities* from *Crassostrea ariakensis*, including the live *aquatic animal*.

For the *commodities* referred to in point 1b), Member Countries should consider introducing internal measures to prevent the *commodity* being used for any purpose other than for human

consumption.

2. When authorising the importation or transit of the *commodities* of a species referred to in Article 2.2.3.2., other than *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.2.3.3., the *Competent Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 2.2.3.7. to 2.2.3.11. relevant to the *Haplosporidium nelsoni* status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*.
3. When considering the importation or transit of any other *commodity* from bivalve species not referred to in Article 2.2.3.2. nor in point 1c) of Article 2.2.3.3., from an *exporting country, zone or compartment* not declared free of *Haplosporidium nelsoni*, the *Competent Authorities* of the *importing country* should conduct an analysis of the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of *Haplosporidium nelsoni*, and the potential consequences, associated with the importation of the *commodity* prior to a decision. The *exporting country* should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

Article 2.2.3.4.

***Haplosporidium nelsoni* free country**

A country may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *Haplosporidium nelsoni* if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a *zone* with one or more other countries, it can only make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *Haplosporidium nelsoni* if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared *Haplosporidium nelsoni* free *zones* (see Article 2.2.3.5.).

1. A country where none of the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 2.2.3.2. is present may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *Haplosporidium nelsoni* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where any *susceptible species* referred to in Article 2.2.3.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter 2.2.3. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *Haplosporidium nelsoni* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the country for at least the past 2 years and infection with *Haplosporidium nelsoni* is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A country where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the *infection* status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, as described in Chapter 2.2.3. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *Haplosporidium nelsoni* when:
 - a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously for at least the past 2 years; and
 - b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and 2.2.3. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of *Haplosporidium nelsoni*.

OR

4. A country that has made a *self-declaration of freedom* from *Haplosporidium nelsoni* but in which the *disease* is detected may not make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *Haplosporidium nelsoni* again until the following conditions have been met:
 - a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *buffer zone* was established; and
 - b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the *disease*, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
 - c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and 2.2.3. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of *Haplosporidium nelsoni*.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free *zone* provided that it meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 2.2.3.5.

Article 2.2.3.5.

***Haplosporidium nelsoni* free zone or free compartment**

A *zone* or *compartment* free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni* may be established within the *territory* of one or more countries of infected or unknown status for infection with *Haplosporidium nelsoni* and declared free by the *Competent Authority(ies)* of the country(ies) concerned if the *zone* or *compartment* meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a *zone* or *compartment* extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a *Haplosporidium nelsoni* free *zone* or *compartment* if the conditions outlined below apply to all areas of the *zone* or *compartment*.

1. In a country of unknown status for *Haplosporidium nelsoni*, a *zone* or *compartment* where none of the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 2.2.3.2. is present may be declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. In a country of unknown status for *Haplosporidium nelsoni*, a *zone* or *compartment* where any species referred to in Article 2.2.3.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter 2.2.3. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may be declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 2 years and infection with *Haplosporidium nelsoni* is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A *zone* or *compartment* where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the *infection* status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, as described in Chapter 2.2.3. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may be declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni* when:

- a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously for at least the past 2 years; and
- b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and 2.2.3. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of *Haplosporidium nelsoni*.

OR

- 4. A *zone* previously declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni* but in which the *disease* is detected may not be declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni* again until the following conditions have been met:
 - a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *buffer zone* was established; and
 - b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the *disease*, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
 - c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and 2.2.3. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of *Haplosporidium nelsoni*.

Article 2.2.3.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni* following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 2.2.3.4. or 2.2.3.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as *Haplosporidium nelsoni* free provided that *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

A country, *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni* following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 2.2.3.4. or 2.2.3.5. (as relevant) may discontinue *targeted surveillance* and maintain its status as *Haplosporidium nelsoni* free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of infection with *Haplosporidium nelsoni*, as described in Chapter 2.2.3. of the *Aquatic Manual*, exist and *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free *zones* or *compartments* in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of infection with *Haplosporidium nelsoni*, *targeted surveillance* needs to be continued at a level determined by the *Competent Authority* on the basis of the likelihood of *infection*.

Article 2.2.3.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni*

When importing live *aquatic animals* of species referred to in Article 2.2.3.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*.

This *certificate* must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 2.2.3.4. or 2.2.3.5. (as

applicable), whether the place of production of the commodity ~~consignment~~ is a country, ~~zone~~ or ~~compartment~~ declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni*.

The *certificate* should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Appendix 4.1.2.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.2.3.3.

Article 2.2.3.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni*

When importing, for *aquaculture*, live *aquatic animals* of species referred to in Article 2.2.3.2. from a country, ~~zone~~ or ~~compartment~~ not declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the risk and apply risk mitigation measures such as:

1. the direct delivery into and holding of the consignment in *quarantine* facilities;
2. the continuous isolation of the imported *aquatic animals* from the local environment;
3. the treatment of all effluent and waste material from the processing in a manner that ensures inactivation of *Haplosporidium nelsoni*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.2.3.3.

Article 2.2.3.9.

Importation of live aquatic animals for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni*

When importing, for processing for human consumption, live *aquatic animals* of species referred to in Article 2.2.3.2. from a country, ~~zone~~ or ~~compartment~~ not declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that:

1. the consignment be delivered directly to and held in *quarantine* facilities until processing and/or consumption; and
2. all effluent and waste material from the processing be treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *Haplosporidium nelsoni*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.2.3.3.

Article 2.2.3.10.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni*

When importing *aquatic animal products* of species referred to in Article 2.2.3.2. from a country, ~~zone~~ or ~~compartment~~ declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that the consignment be accompanied by an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*.

This *certificate* must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 2.2.3.4. or 2.2.3.5. (as applicable), whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni*.

The *certificate* should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Appendix X.X.X. (under study).

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.2.3.3.

Article 2.2.3.11.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni*

When importing *aquatic animal products* of species referred to in Article 2.2.3.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from *Haplosporidium nelsoni*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.2.3.3.